

Ken Watkins-BKF, Scott Molinari-ARF, Tod Pechota-BKF, Ken Reur-RO Fleet, Eric Comstock-BHF, Scott Sugg-RO Ops., Brian Kitchen-PSF

Ken Reur gave a fleet update and on average we can expect to see FOR rates increase @\$30/vehicle/month. There was some discussion regarding Crew Carriers and the delays the region is seeing in delivery from Phenix Mfg., and as a result the region is placing replacement orders early. So the BHF, BKF, and ARF buggies scheduled for replacement in 2011 will be ordered in 2009. Also on this topic was whether or not the crews had a general preference over 2 lg or 3 sm, buggies, and Scott Sugg was going to send out a request for info.

Bill Ott provided an update from the RO and also discussed his desires to see the Engine committee broaden its scope to include other pertinent issues. Engine Standardization and an academy have been viewed as the primary focus of the comm. And perhaps in the future we can work on a broader range of issues. , Also, we will see more interagency participation across the coop agencies with particular regard to the engine academy.

There was some discussion with regard to the **Engine Captain upgrades** and the application of them. There seems to be a good deal of variability among how the forests are applying the upgrades. The criteria for the upgrades, should it be based on some specific criteria perhaps similar to the IFPM matrix that determines Forest complexity? Bill also mentioned that office of **Insp. Gen.** said that **401 series jobs at 9,11,12**, must be advertised as 462/401 positions.

Doug Wagner works on the RMACC web page and he spoke about our website and laid out the process for updates as well as the limits of the site. Everything **to be posted on the web site** will be routed to a web page working group member (Watkins, Molinari) and will be collected and forwarded to D. Wagner for posting on the site. All effort will be made to update the site regularly and to release information in a timely manner.

Scott Sugg RO Fire Operations Scott discussed a proposal to review and update the comm. **Charter**. He would like to tie the charter to the academy, also tie in w/ the BLM and our interagency commitment, as well as standardization, training and mentoring. He also expressed an interest in the comm. working on broad issues including operations, communications, HR and Administration. A working group was established. A draft was distributed and the working group will hopefully have something in the spring.'09. Scott also distributed a draft for a **regional Strike Team/Task Force** idea that worked this past year in the Eastern Great Basin and seems like an interesting thing we thought would be a good idea to try and will be working with group to refine and propose something to the comm.

After Lunch we met with Representatives from BrandFX Body. Brand FX Body is the manufacturer of the "fiber body" boxes on the Model 54 engine.

Perry Shatley (formerly of S&S and now with Brand FX Body) was there along with the Pres. and VP of the company. They are the original developers of the "Fiber Body" Engine with the BLM and manufactured the original Tac 1 wildland engine until they sold that portion of the business to S&S. They have continued to provide utility companies such as Qwest and Verizon their "Fiber Body" utility boxes. They will be offering the Model 54 engine and the Model 661 support truck sometime this year,. With the demise of S&S they are working to secure some of the employees that were heavy in the production of the engines and support trucks. They are still in the process of negotiating with gsa on contract pricing and specifications but are committed to providing engines and supporting the products that S&S sold. Warranty information is still being structured

Perry said the mudflaps will change, but that should be it.

Dialed in for the **conference call** at 1430 hrs. and noone was there but call was left open for @20 minutes. . No response.

Ken Watkins-Chair-Ken discussed some of the goings on with the Engine Academy. Currently scheduled for the week of April 27-May 2,2009, in Fort Carson, CO. The academy will be a huge interagency effort with 24 students to be scheduled in the first year, hoping to get up to 40 students in the future. This academy will be testing to the same standards as the two week academies, while on a compressed schedule. There is a lot of work going on with this and Ken Watkins would be the best contact for current information.

Several working groups were established at the meeting.

Website working group-Ken Watkins and Scott Molinari

Work to manage and update the comm. Website. Will serve as clearinghouse of information for committee business and regional operator and equipment information. Will post regional engine operator contact list to the website.

Strike Team Working Group-Brian Kitchen and Eric Comstock

Work to develop a program region wide that would pre identify resources available for the mobilization of a Strike Team or Task Force. This would be based likely out of two zones North and South to expedite mob. Times and facilitate more opportunities for participation in national and regional fire support. A similar plan exists in the Eastern Great basin and was dispatched 6 times with one UTF.

Charter working group-Eric Comstock and Scott Molinari

Working to review and update the comm. Charter to reflect current Committee direction and vision.

Conference Call Scheduled for Thursday January 12, 2009, 1000 hrs.

Action Items

Review charter draft- All

Get operator list to D. Wagner for web site posting- Molinari

Working groups review items for next conf. call- All

Spread word about academy- All

Submit names for cadre and coaches to K. Watkins- All